



Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Preparation for **Worship**

We praise you, we worship you, we adore you, Holy God. You hold the heavens in your hand, and all stars rejoice in your glory. You come in the sunrise and the song of morn, and bless the splendor of the noonday. The stars in their courses magnify you, day and night they tell of your glory. Your peace blows over the earth, and the breath of your mouth fills all space. Our hearts bow at your presence. Accept us, your children, and hearken to our prayer. Bend over us, Eternal Love, and bless us. Amen.

Gathering and Preparing for **God's Word**

Welcome and Announcements

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Minute for History: WPC@75

Meg McKnight

Prelude

The Faithful Shepherd

Handel

* Call to Worship

Leader: No one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.

People: **What is born of the flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.**

Leader: The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes.

People: **So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn #611

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

HYMN To Joy

* Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,

we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart, soul, and mind, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have failed to be an obedient church, prizing success more than self-denial.

We have failed to be faithful disciples, striving for comfort and control instead of carrying the cross of Jesus Christ.

Send your Holy Spirit into our midst, so that our faith may be reborn.

Set us free to serve you in this world, and help us to grow into the disciples you have called us to be: generous with our gifts, sacrificial with our service, hopeful with our hearts, and joyful with our lives. Amen.

* Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

* Gloria Patri

Hymnal, #581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

Children in K5 - first grade are invited to leave for Children's Church.

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson, *Ecclesiastes 1:1-11, 14*

p. 536

Second Scripture Lesson, *Ecclesiastes 3:1-14*

p. 537

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"Chasing After Wind"

Responding to **God's Word**

* Affirmation of Faith

from *The Confession of 1967*

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind.

Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness.

But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ

by showing power in the form of a servant,

wisdom in the folly of the cross,

and goodness in receiving sinful men and women.

The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world

discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator

who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering

Anthem

Take Our Lives

Shippey

* Doxology

Hymnal, #606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication

* Hymn #838

"Standing on the Promises"

PROMISES

* Charge and Benediction

* Congregational Response

Hymnal, #740

Lead me, guide me, along the way, for if you lead me, I cannot stray.

Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

* Postlude

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

Sedio

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Lauren Slingerland, *liturgist*

Ashley Gettys, *lay reader*

Todd Monsell, *organist*

The Summer Choir

Bryan Kelley, *head usher*

Carroll Farmer, LeAnne White, Russ Williams,

Toni Paylor, Rob Morgan, *greeters*

Bobby Hartman, *acolyte*

Worship Notes

NURSERY

Childcare is available for infants through 4K. Our nurturing staff of experienced caregivers and parent volunteers offers a welcoming environment for children. The Nursery is located on the mezzanine level. The entrance is at Westminster Drive, at the columbarium or near the Westminster Weekday School offices.

WORSHIP BAGS

Each Sunday we offer worship bags in the atrium for children. The worship bags are designed to include reusable items that engage children in open ended play during worship. While children attend worship with their families, they can participate in worship and play to make foundational layers of meaning for faith. Please return the zipper bag and its contents each Sunday. This shift to reusable items demonstrates how we value hospitality and care for creation.

CONNECT WITH WESTMINSTER

Looking for ways to be involved? Please complete a Connection Card from the Ritual of Friendship pad and place it in the offering plate to express interest or sign up for an opportunity.

WELCOME TO WPC!

Please fill out a name tag and find more information about WPC at the Welcome Table in the Atrium. First time visitors are also invited to take home a WPC mug.

PRAYER REQUESTS

As a congregation that prays with and for one another, Westminster invites you to share your prayer requests using the cards located in the Ritual of Friendship pad at the end of each pew. You may complete a card and leave it in the offering plate so that the pastors and/or prayer chain team may pray for you. If you wish to join the prayer chain, please indicate that on your card.

Save the Dates!

RISE AGAINST HUNGER

Celebrate WPC's 75th Anniversary by packaging 75,000 meals with Rise Against Hunger. Everyone (ages 8+) is welcome to join in this fun service opportunity in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, August 20, with 2-hour shifts from 8a-4p. Childcare is available from 10a-12p for ages birth-4K. Register now on the WPC website, or write "Rise Against Hunger" on your Connection Card to get involved.

WPCYG - Save the Date

Sign-ups are live! Sign up today and save August 20-21 on your calendars. This will be our Back to School Retreat at Look Up Lodge! The trip is from 9a Saturday until 2p Sunday and we will travel to Look Up via charter bus. It is open to all 6th-12th grade youth. Questions? Ask Mary Kathleen. Registration closes August 1.

OPEN MINDS • Serving with WPC

PLEASANT VALLEY SUMMER CAMP

Thanks to all who have contributed to a fun and enriching summer with our partners at Pleasant Valley Connection! As we approach our final week of summer programming, we celebrate that over 30 volunteers have connected with around 60 children ages K-5th grades to build relationships and expand horizons. Be on the lookout for more opportunities to serve with PVC coming this fall.

PROJECT HOST SOUP KITCHEN

New opportunities to serve in the Project Host Soup Kitchen are now available. Volunteers are invited to serve on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays (9a-1p) through the end of the year. To sign up, visit www.wpc-online.org or write "Project Host" on your Connection Card.

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK UPDATE

After careful consideration, United Ministries has developed a new IHN model that will both support the ongoing mission to provide emergency shelter to families with children and engage congregational partners in that work. Whereas congregations have traditionally hosted families, they will now be housed in former Greenville Tech student housing units. This model will allow for even more families to be served in a more stable setting. Thank you to all who have participated in the Interfaith Hospitality Network across the years! Be on the lookout for new ways to serve families soon.

DONATE SCHOOL SUPPLIES

WPC's Vacation Bible School participants will fill backpacks with supplies to support under-resourced students in Greenville County Schools. We will collect the following donations through August 2nd, and you may either purchase via the Amazon Wish List located on the church's website or deliver directly to the church office. Questions? Contact Julia Watkins.

- Spiral notebooks (wide-ruled)
- Lined loose leaf paper (wide-ruled)
- Crayons
- #2 pencils
- Packs of facial tissue
- Folders with pockets
- Multi-color construction paper
- Glue or glue sticks

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS
July 31 - August 7, 2022

Sunday, July 31

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
9:40a Sunday Session Meeting
10:00 Worship Service
11:00 After Worship Fellowship with donuts

Monday, August 1

9:00a Vacation Bible School

Tuesday, August 2

9:00a Vacation Bible School
12:00p AI-Anon Group Meeting
6:30 Westminster Book Club

Wednesday, August 3

9:00a Vacation Bible School
1:30p Pleasant Valley Connection Camp
2:00 Rising 6th Grade Event
5:30 Middler Waffle Cone
Wednesday at Spill the Beans
7:00 Senior High Dinner Club

Thursday, August 4

9:00a Vacation Bible School

Friday, August 5

9:00a Vacation Bible School

Sunday, August 7

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
9:00a Membership Committee Meeting
9:40 Sunday Session Meeting
10:00 Worship Service
11:00 After Worship Fellowship with donuts

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER

The Women of Westminster's Kick Off Social will be Thursday, August 25 at 6:30p at the home of Mandy Pruitt (29 Rock Creek Dr., 29605). All women from the church are invited to socialize, have fellowship with one another, meet new folks and learn more about WOW! Please contact Coleman Dixon, Moderator, at 864-607-8778 or colemamdixon@hotmail.com to be added to our email list to get more information. Looking forward to a meaningful year!

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Kayla Burrell

At times, life can feel a little bit like a game of "Hide and Go Seek." Time will pass, and from my hiding spot in the present, I'll hear the floorboards creak as big events and nerve-wracking milestones tiptoe their way towards me. "Ready or not," they say, and I hold my breath because most of the time, my answer is "not" — or at least, "not yet." But eventually, whether I am ready or not, they find me.

As I read Ecclesiastes 3:1-14, I think to myself, "Yes, this makes sense. Of course there's a season for everything. Of course everything won't always stay the same." But then I think about going abroad this fall and leaving my elderly dog for four months, and I want nothing more than for time to freeze. And each day I'm gone, I'm sure I'll pray, "Please, not yet."

The passage also makes me remember how petrified I felt at the last WPC Youth Group event I attended. It was our last night at Montreat, and our leader announced to everyone still lingering in our building's common area that there were 10 minutes until lights out. I remember thinking out loud, "Ten minutes? That's not enough time." I did not feel ready for that season in my life to end. Not yet.

However, no matter how unpleasant the end of each season may be for those of us who struggle with change (which is probably all of us to some degree), time keeps moving. One event after the next comes and goes. Some are joyful, and some are sad. Some are just painful at first because they are different from the last.

We are supposed to trust that God has a plan for everyone, but it is hard for me to find comfort in that when I know that so many people's lives are filled with suffering or end before they are ready. When thinking about the future feels too overwhelming, what helps me is to remember this: God knows what will happen and will be there when we need help.

Every season brings something new into our lives, be it strength, resilience, understanding, empathy, or something else. I've noticed that some good has come of every change in my life. For example, leaving the youth group pushed me to find new ways to engage with the church as an adult, and having to spend long stretches of time away from my dog has reminded me how precious every moment I have with her is. Whether we hide from the future or not, it will still find us, so we may as well step forward and meet it with hope and the knowledge that whatever it brings, God will be with us every step of the way.



celebrating westminster

August 20th | Rise Against Hunger
8a-4p (sign up for a two hour shift)
Package 75,000 meals to celebrate 75 years of service.

September 22nd | 75th Gala
7p-10p at the Poinsett Club
\$75 | heavy hors d'oeuvres, beer and wine, live music

